

Russian Imperial Red Cross Merit Badge, 1899-1917.

Brass gilt, enamels; 53.1 mm x 33.1 mm. The motto along the edge is Biblical quotation: "Do as you would be done by".

The badge is in very fine condition. The enamel may appear perfect at first glance, but a careful examination reveals a chip to the white enamel immediately below the crown. Its location is so inconspicuous that it really does not detract much from the overall appearance of the badge. The enamel is perfect otherwise, with nice luster. The gilt has thinned somewhat on the high points of the ribbons and the crown, but the badge still has most of its gold finish intact. The attachment pin is slightly bent but sound and fully functional.

This is a truly well-designed and attractive badge. It was awarded under the Empress's authority to those citizens who made significant contributions - either financial or through participation in society activities - to the Red Cross Society in its work throughout the Russian Empire.

/See Patrikeev and Bojnovich "Badges of Russia", Volume 1, p. 232, #7.5; also shown in "Badges of Imperial Russia" by R. Werlich, fig. 853/.

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